

GOLDEN STATE AND CENTRAL VALLEY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

On April 20, 2010, the Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury visited Golden State and Central Valley Community Correctional Facilities in McFarland to inquire into the condition and management of the facilities according to Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Warden of Golden State and Central Valley Facilities and the Captain of the California State Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). The Committee was taken on a tour of the kitchen, medical and pharmacy facilities, exercise yards, dormitories and control center.

BACKGROUND:

Golden State and Central Valley Community Correctional Facilities are located at 254 Taylor Avenue, McFarland, CA. The facilities are owned and operated by the GEO Group, Inc. The facilities opened in December 1997 with a ten year contract which has been extended for another ten years with the CDCR. The maximum population for each facility is 640. On the day of the Committee's visit Central Valley had 641 and Golden State had 617.

FINDINGS:

1. Both facilities have separate kitchen and dining areas. The inmates provide all services, cooking, serving and cleaning. The facilities provide three hot meals a day.
2. Visiting hours are conducted at both facilities on Saturday and Sunday from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM.
3. Both facilities have been updated with a state of the art camera monitoring system that records 24 hours a day. Video records are kept for one month. The officers in the control booth can monitor all areas of the facilities, yard and perimeter fences and can zoom in on any area at any time.
4. Each facility has two separate housing units (pods) consisting of four dormitories with 80 beds per dormitory. Both pods are monitored by a single control booth. Since opening the facilities there have been no escapes.

5. The majority of inmates are between 25 and 35 years of age with population at both facilities being 85% Hispanic. Illegal aliens are monitored by Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE). Upon release from the facilities ICE Agents transport twice a week for deportation.
6. One facility houses general population; the other holds Sensitive Needs Yard (SNY) protective custody inmates. Both facilities contract for inmates sentenced for up to three years. The approximate cost for housing is \$60 per day and takes into account all the costs associated with housing an inmate.
7. The facilities have training classes for janitorial, landscaping, plumbing, heating/air conditioning and horticulture.

COMMENTS:

The Law and Justice Committee commends the GEO Group and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation staff for the overall cleanliness and appearance of the facilities inside and out.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Central Valley and Golden State Community Correctional Facilities should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

Note: Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed through the Kern County Law Library and on the Kern County Grand Jury website: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury

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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED